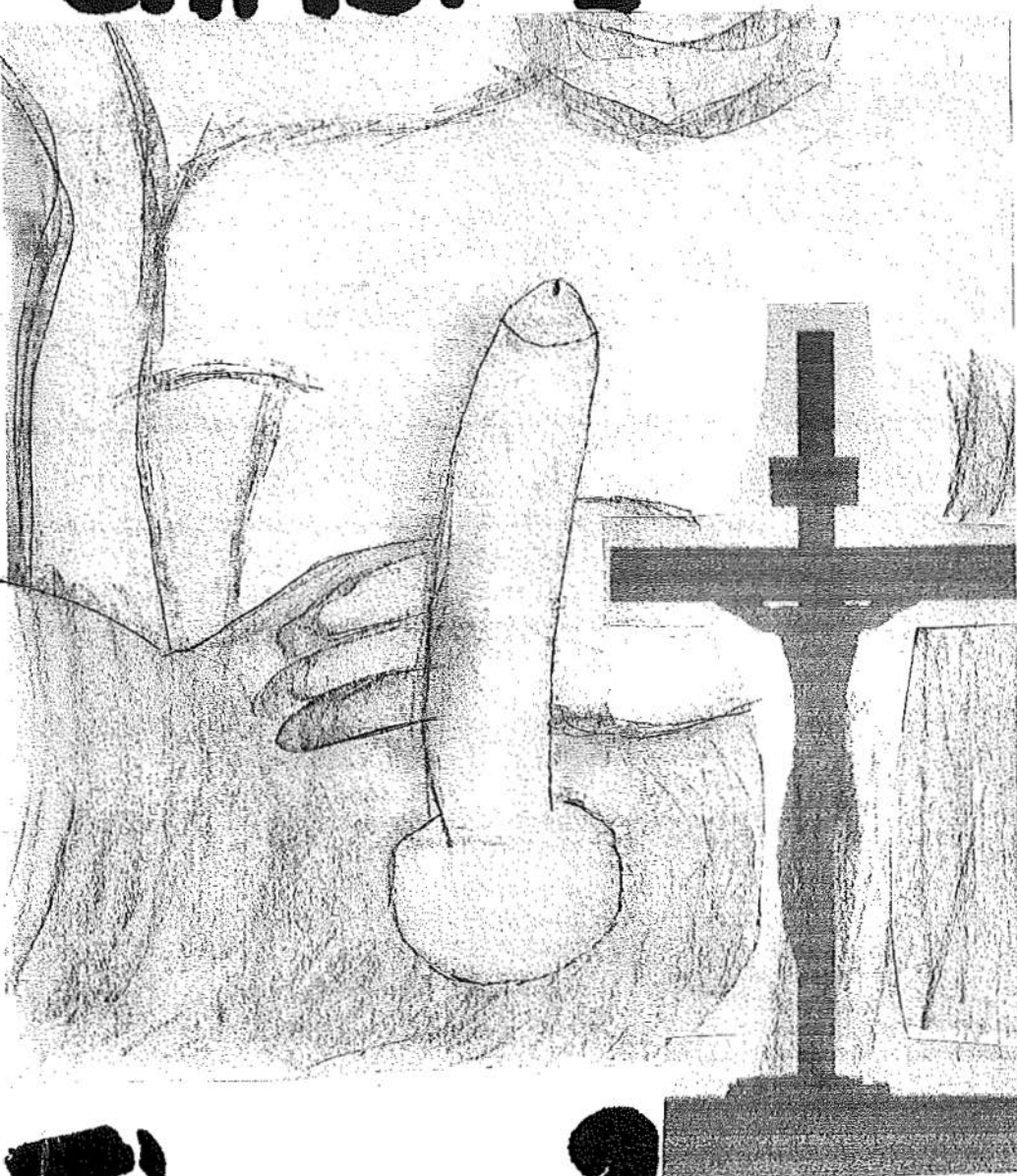


Christ !



I'm gay?

I used to stand in the Barnes & Noble queer section and read the "My First Time" book series. Well, *this* is my first time (making a zine, that is)! My name is Kevin and I'm 22. And I hope you enjoy! Feedback or hatemail or comments or love letters all encouraged and welcome
facesturnedaround@gmail.com

Content:

Mostly everything in here was taken directly from old emails and journals of mine. Maybe, hopefully, all this random info will weave some sort of a terribly pixilated picture or glance or insight into my life and my journeys of being gay, christian, and trying to figure out what the hell those things even mean. (and some other stuff too)

Why:

I've considered doing this for years. Hopefully now is an okay time. This zine is mostly a selfish desire to want to expose myself-- all my vulnerabilities, contradictions, embarrassments-- as an attempt to convince myself that IT IS OKAY that life is confusing!

I gotta learn how to accept that shit!

THANK YOU:

The Weakerthans, Taylor Swift

anarchist cafes in Pensacola

Mauri, Aven, Greg, Andy, Marika, Courtney

Amy, Hannah, Curtis, Neil

I
LIKE
BOYS



Oct. 11, 87

* Birth *

Family =
MOM
DAD
BROTHER
(3 yrs older)

Became Christian ?

OUT
to
friends
103
★
YOUTH
ministers
@ church

11/16/06

01



Molested
by older
brother

8/06

CHRISTIAN =
COLLEGE
GAY? or
CHRISTIAN?
ARKANSAS
(WTF!!!)

6/08

Advocate 4
Battered
WOMEN
7/08
↑ ACTIVISM

9/09

MOVE TO
CHICAGO
make
zine

Intellectual Idealist Seeks Same

intellectual idealist seeks same

Reply to: pers-ht8am-1098371196@craigslist.org

Date: 2009-03-29, 9:40PM

So I currently live in Florida and will be moving to Chicago in September to attend the University of Chicago for graduate school. I studied social work for my undergrad and currently work as a victim advocate for battered women; I am very idealistic and wish to focus the majority of my time on social justice related activities in addition to cultural events, high-quality beer, and my best friend and her 1 1/2 year old son.

Thus far in my life I've never had a boyfriend except for a three month, non-sexual fling with a mentally unstable classmate (this, of course, I didn't figure out until years later when I heard he attempted to drive his car into the Mississippi River.) Therefore I'm hoping Chicago holds a larger number of socially conscious, intelligent, and mentally stable males than Florida and Arkansas do.

Preferably you enjoy microbrewed beer, Aladdin, libraries, rollerblading, and you probably have a predisposition for odd "sports" like table tennis, shuffleboard, or even racquetball. But I suppose it would be ridiculous to hope that you match ALL of those things, right?

Something about a casual sexual encounter has always fascinated me....
but I've never followed through with it

was just wondering if you ever had your first experience?
19 y/o here, completely inexperienced as well.

Got your message....just curious how old you are. Write back soon.

From: Kevin <kev81co@yahoo.com>
To: "David Begin" <begin1@peoplepc.com>

To: lawschool69@hotmail.com

To: pers-296930333@craigslist.org

2004, 6:15 PM 2004, 10:26 AM

2007, 6:27 PM

storytime



Setting: 10th or 11th grade, Sunday afternoon

Characters: Me, mom, dad

(Parents wake me from nap)

Dad: We need to talk about something Mr. X told us

man from church
father of close friend

ME: Okay

Dad: He told us you've been thinking about homosexuality, or maybe had considered yourself gay at some point

Me: I don't know. It doesn't matter. That is none of anyone's business anyways

Dad: (blah blah) Well you know what the Bible says... blah etc

ME: It's none of your business, sexuality doesn't matter

Dad: Well just so you know, we won't tolerate that in our household -the end

Becoming Christian

On January 16th, 2006, (I think) I made the decision to give my life, my all, to Jesus Christ, the lord of all things. Since then I have strived to live a Godly life and to serve him in everything I do. I've kept a small other journal until now, and will hopefully transfer some of these pages to this journal, as well as continue writing in here about current things.

I asked Curtis today if he thought I could have a long-term relationship in the future without being attracted to the opposite sex and essentially not having the physical aspect of the relationship. He pretty much said no, explaining that long term relationships (marriages) is meant to involve physicality and attraction and that excluding sex from a marriage would cause both parties to seek out their needs in other ways. He went on to say that he felt I was setting my hopes too low, and that I should be hoping for the day when I am attracted to women and can further pursue relationships with them.

I do believe he's right, but it's very frustrating right now, desiring & hoping for these relationships in the future but not experiencing signs of moving completely in that direction. Basically, I don't want to be lonely all of my life.

ME!



From: Kevin <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Subject: hey [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, January 25, 2006, 11:02 PM

→ YOUTH

MINISTER

i found these sites and articles a couple of nights ago :
dealing with things of this topic.

Exodus International

<http://exodus.to/default.asp> !

EX-GAY christian org.

(they are the DEVIL!)

And this one too.

<http://masteringlife.gospelcom.net/page.php?load=>

[REDACTED] Child [REDACTED] Sexual [REDACTED] Abuse [REDACTED]

BROTHER



From: [REDACTED] <mustang[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Subject: tax statement

To: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com ← ME !

Date: Thursday, February 2, 2006, 8:51 PM

I'm so glad that you made the decision to be baptized.

I hope you continue to make good decisions.

[REDACTED]

BOYS

IVE

Travis



Nathan



Turtis



Ben



Chris

BEEN

LOVE



Nate

IN

WITH

Middle School ~~V~~ through current

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2006, 11:43 PM

Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2006, 11:43 PM

BAY AREA PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

1417 N. Partin Drive

Niceville, FL 32578

Phone: 729-0303

FAX: 729-0305

*Bonnie Benshoof, Ph.D., Lic. Psychologist - Adults; children; families;
relationship conflict; life transitions, grief, stress, blended families

*Michael L. Tallman, Psy.D. - Adults; children; families; pain manager

*Gretchen C. Tyler, Ph.D., Lic. Psychologist - Children; adolescents; &
eating disorders; postpartum depression

Commercial insurances accepted; Medicare; Christian orientation

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 3:10 PM

2006 Freedom Conference Details

LIVE OUT LOUD

Registration is available now! Earlybird discount \$50!

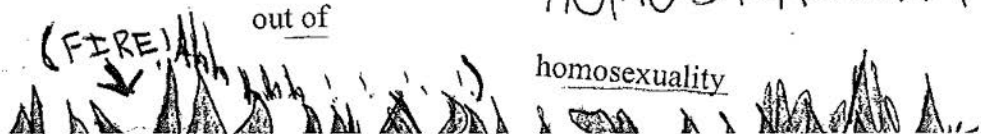
In 1992 I began attending a church here in Orlando. I was about a year

into my journey

OUT OF HOMOSEXUALIT

out of

homosexuality



I Want to have

June 30th
'06

Got back from Uplift a few hours ago. This past week Zach, a guy from Tennessee whom I met last year, and I hung out a lot this week - I mean a lot. Breakfast every morning, hanging out during rec. time, before dinner, at late every night in his room until 3 or so (and 5:30ish last night) I really, really enjoy him & his company. But I was very confused all week as to what my intentions were as well as whether or not it was even a good idea to hang out with him.

I've realized that since I never really became physical with another guy, there's not really anything tangible that I know I need to avoid & stop in regards to friendships with guys now. Which leaves me very confused as to what boundaries I have to have in order to have a pure, Godly, relationship with another male. I feel like I'm having the same interactions except any desires for ungodly intimacy are unwanted.

I don't know. I'm confused and want to be able to have intimate relationships or interactions with other males but only without feeling guilty & unsure if it's ^{okay} ~~good~~ during & after the interaction.

Also, Zach is kind of cocky. I don't know how many times I heard him say "Wow, I'm hot." But from being around him so much I've realized that it's totally okay & good to be okay & happy with yourself. My interactions with him have just made me

Intimate Relationships w/ others

6 Month Benefits

6 Months after becoming a Christian

July 06

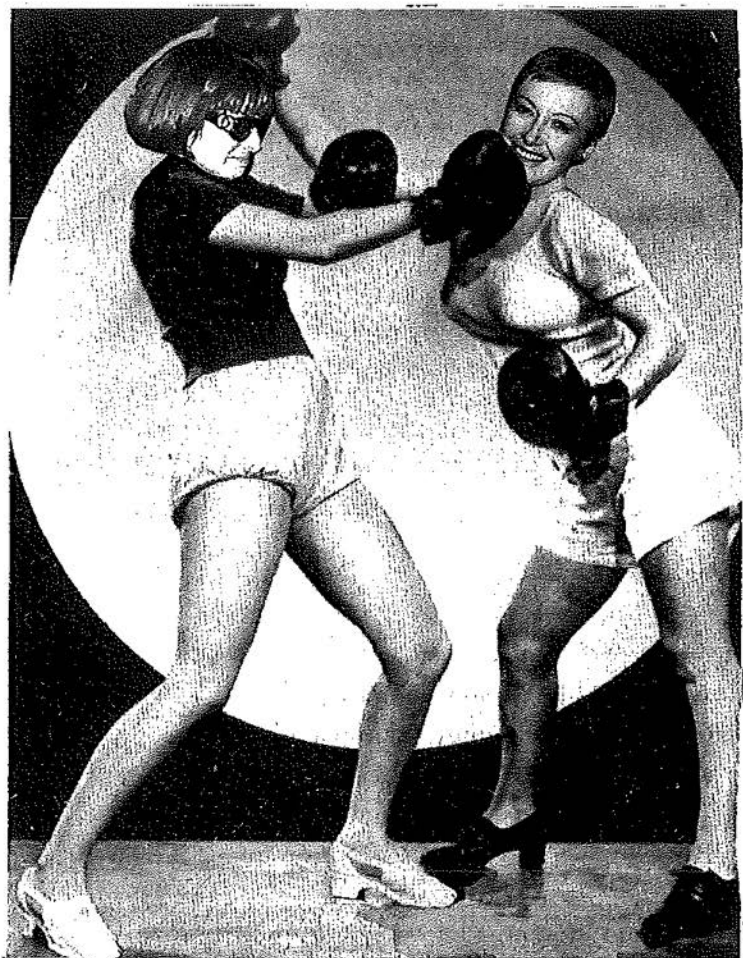
Before:

- Awful/no relationship with parents
- Hated [REDACTED]
- Depressed on and off
- Alcohol abuse
- self-proclaimed homosexual
- atheist
- existentialist

Now:

- Relationship w/parents slowly improving
- Friendship with [REDACTED]
 - forgiven him & love him now
- Most often, understanding joy & peace in my life & outlook
- clean of substance abuse
- Homosexual temptations are getting much better
 - learning what healthy relationships are like
- Have a clear purpose for my life

Pornography!



10-7
PORN



- While dad watches TV
- = • When my roommate is gone for a while
- Any & all opportunities
- At Christian College!!

Monday, January 24, 2005, 6:16 PM

teen boy with dic k_jpg.htm

gay, twink, shower, suck, suck, military, friends

I went up & Curtis prayed over me, asking that we receive the power of the spirit & that my struggle with homosexuality would end today.

I then went up to the speaker & ~~asked the same~~ told him that his lesson gave me hope. He prayed over me, asking for the Holy Spirit to come on me & IDENTIFY me as a SON OF GOD so that I could be confident in my identity. And also that I now HAVE the power to overcome this struggle.

For the first time tonight I've realized that I DO have the power to overcome this. I don't think I've ever REALLY believed that before. There is 100% a hope that God can and will transform my life.

Highlights:

"Receive the power of the Spirit... that my struggle with homosexuality would end"

"I DO have the power to overcome this"

continue + to give in intimacy w/ them '06
 even when I knew this is something I
 struggle with very badly.

- There were several times later in the week when I gave into looking, specifically looking at guys. Once or twice in the showers & several other times just working & hanging out.
- Because of that ↑ (& because I do feel some healing has taken place in regards to having same-sex desires) I feel like I've betrayed that feeling & the forgiveness towards ~~myself~~ I've claimed.
- I get to go home to just ~~myself~~ & I for a whole week.
- I think the reason I'm not rejoicing about the healing that's taken place is because part of me is not ready to it...

**"does not want to give up
 those attractions"**

Come out, baby! My "process"

Two Friends

+

Youth Minister

+

More friends

+

Different Youth Minister

+

Christian College Roommate

+

CHICAGO



(Still left):

Parents/family

Therapy of Harding

Dr. Ireland

10/24
'86

I NEED to make this decision - will I go through with this or not?

If so, I need to TRULY count the cost - realize that this will cost me.

I yes,

would that I FOR SURE want to pursue my life as a Goply person with him above ALL else

- I would have to see myself as heterosexual
- every time I am attracted or want to look at another guy I would have to say "NO I am a heterosexual and I DO NOT have these desires They are not natural"

I would completely have to capture my thoughts

- Every TIME I have a desire or homosexual thought or fantasy I will HAVE to deny it and NEVER intend to pursue or continue these thoughts
- Instead I will HAVE to reject all these thoughts and continually reaffirm that I don't want these thoughts, that I am living as a Goply man, and that I am a heterosexual.

I must COUNT THE COST of this decision.

There is NO turning back.

Angry, drunk, truthful rant, 2006

Oct '06

My brother molested me when I was 8.
I became a Christian 1 year ago.
I've struggled with homosexuality for the
past ten years.

My parents don't know my brother molested me.

I just got drunk at a Christian College because
I'm not sure what I believe anymore.

I want my homosexual desires to **GO AWAY**
so that I can REALLY believe in God.

I want to act out on my homosexual desires
but I don't think that's what God wants.

^{away at}
I'm at college and I miss my dog more
than my family.

I have no friends at college because every
time I talk to someone I think they are
annoying and retarded.

"Finding Each Other"

11:55 PM

i'll leave tonight.

that would be crazy

if i left tonight to come get you, would you leave tonight?

and we can not answer phones

i'm serious.

and people will report us missing

and our parents will love us

and

stuff

yeah, parents will love. that'd be good

that would put things into perspective.

what

would

huh

would you leave tonight if i actually were to do it?

no

oh.

k

you're crazy!

but

that sounds

really

amazing

i'm not really going to do it. i was just curious if you would go

with me if we convinced ourselves

well

if i was convinced

then

that would mean i'd do it

blah. i know.

ha

Suicidal, or whatever



#1

2/20/08

Dr. Ireland today. He asked what was on my mind and I had decided last night that I would just be honest + upfront with him today. I told him that over the past few weeks I'd been thinking a lot about killing myself. I explained how it's not so much that I've made a plan + am set on doing it but more so that it has emerged as an option in my mind recently as a response to my life + struggles. To my surprise he kind of freaked out. I mean, I guess I have to realize what his responsibility is as a psychologist when someone tells him they're thinking about suicide. So, we talked about why + how it has become an option for me - mostly because I just ~~cannot~~ see my future being any different than the present or my cyclical past of depression, questioning, hope, God, questioning, depression, hopelessness etc. There isn't anything that makes me believe my future will be different than this cycle. Living like this just doesn't have meaning or motivation, at all. His main response was that I Don't know what the future holds + it is completely inaccurate + wrong to just assume that I know how it'll be.

Then he asked what has/is keeping me from actually doing it. I explained how thinking of how my family/friends would be affected + how they'd react really scared me + makes me really sad. I don't want to make their lives completely hell



#2

and ruined because I decided to do something really self-centered & directed for my "benefit." Also, the other big thing is that I don't want to dwell with this lingering thought in the back of my head about the question of God and eternity.

He pretty much threatened to report it/call my parents/etc. I had to explain & convince him that this isn't something I'm ready to do, just that it's something I've thought about.

He mentioned going to a doctor to see about anti-depressants, but he's not crazy about medicine & I'm not either, especially because my parents would find out and I don't want medicine to bring me into some unnaturally induced state of mediocrity & "complacency" with my life. I want to fucking deal with this shit once & for all. And I DON'T know how to do that - except for simply not living.

I feel like I'm going fucking insane.

- he's making me come in on Friday afternoon.
WAA. we'll see how that goes



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

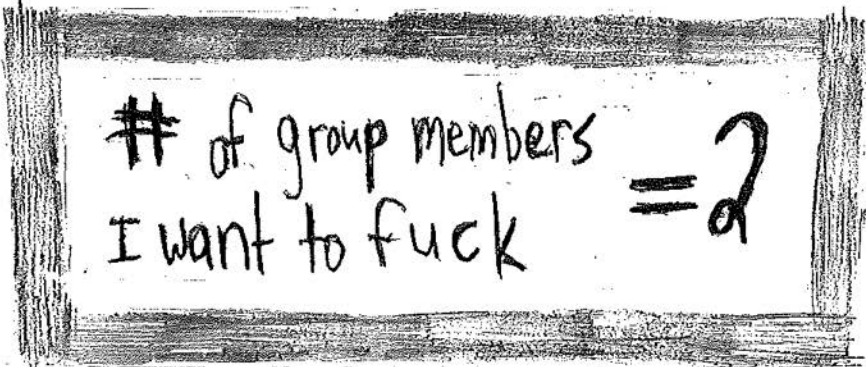
Coming Out Support Group

Available to college and graduate students questioning their sexual orientation or beginning to identify as **gay, lesbian or bisexual.**

Students have the opportunity to **clarify their sexuality**, seek advice from peers and gain support in a safe, confidential environment.

The group meets once a week for 75 minutes and space is limited to 12 participants.

Please contact John McPherrin, PsyD, at jkm@uchicago.edu for more information or to register.



of group members
I want to fuck = 2

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Student Counseling & Resource Service

5737 S. University Ave.
Chicago, IL 60637
773.702.9800

MY CRAZY ASS AUNT

FROM: ↗

--- On Sat, 9/13/08, [REDACTED]@aol.com

TO:

Kevin <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

← ME!

RE:

A Pastor with GUTS!!

We have rewarded laziness and called it
Welfare.

We have polluted the air with profanity and
Pornography and called it freedom of expression..

We have ridiculed the time-honored values
Of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Think about this: If you forward this
Prayer to everyone on your
E-mail list, in less than 30 days it would be
Heard by the world.

↓
...do you have the guts to pass it on?

↑
Love & God Bless

In His Name,
Teresa

DO
YOU
?!
!

Letter to parents, "coming out,"

Draft #1

Page 1

There's something I've wanted you to know Jan '11
for a long time, and that's why I'm writing
this letter. After you read it, I do not want
you to call or otherwise contact me (besides an
email saying only that you received it) until you've
had time to gather your thoughts and put them
down in the form of a letter ~~back~~ to me.

What I need you to know is that I am gay.
This is not a temporary phase or something someone
else convinced me to "do" or "try." I have been gay
for as long as I can remember and ~~will~~ that will not
change. Just so you know, I am out to all of my
~~many~~ friends and they have been wonderfully supportive
for years. I've gotten to the point in my life
where I want to only be surrounded by people who
love me for who I am - every part of me. My hope is
that you'll be a part of that category.

You're probably wondering what implications this has
for my spirituality + relationship with God. To be honest,
I'm not sure. What I can say is that I have certainly

not abandoned the ideas of spirituality + God. ~~And~~ I have spent COUNTLESS hours contemplating and discussing with others these issues and will continue to do so, so please do not assume this means I'm some ^{new} poor, soulless person now.

I am open to any questions you ~~may~~ might have but am not interested in sitting on the other end of the phone line while you cry. That may sound harsh, but please understand that I've spent my entire life thus far protecting others from what I perceived as information that'd be harmful to them - I can't do that any longer and now ~~there~~ need to focus on what is good, right, and healthy for me and what will allow me to develop and progress as an individual.

Hopefully all of this is making sense.

Like I said before, please send an email just saying that you received it. I will not answer your phone calls for right now, but will be looking for a letter with your thoughts/responses.

Love,
Kevin

Current status of sending a letter/coming out to parents

Pending (Indefinitely???)

As of March 25 2010, 10:36pm

- Still gay, darn it!
- Going on a date Saturday
- Haven't been to church in months- parent's think otherwise

- Still learning, exploring, figuring shit out!

- What's next????? (Other than whiskey...)

- I dunno!

- Be kind and smile, y'all!

faceeturnedaround@gmail.com

Peace,
Kevin

